(d) the reasons for not using modern ways to increase the plant load factor inspite of huge investments and requirement of more power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINIS TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VEN-UGOPALACHARI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atleast, three different studies have concluded that the use of good quality coal can increase the PLF of our thermal power stations.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the PLF of power stations is inter alia dependent on the quality and consistency of the coal fed in the boilers of thermal power stations.

(d) A number of measures to improve the PLF of our thermal power stations are being taken. Consequently, the PLF of our thermal power stations had increased to 63% in 1995-96 from 55. 3% in 1991-92.

Ranchi-Paradeep Pipeline

*115. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to lay a pipeline connecting Ranchi with Paradeep;

(b) whether the tap off facilities under that proposal were to be provided at Rourkela and Bhubancshwar; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Indian Oil Corporation in that direction?

THE-MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) IOC has submitted a proposal to the Govt, for 1st stage clearance for laying a product pipeline from Paradeep to Ranchi. The other details including tap off facilities etc. of the project will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report.

Non-Conveuctonal Energy Generation in Assam and Rajasthan

*116. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the steps taken/ contemplated by Government to generate non-conventional energy in Assam and Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a wide range of programmes to generate and utilise non-conventional energy such as; the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), the Urjagrarn programme, the setting up of Biogas plants, Improved Chulhas, Biomass Gasification and Briquetting Plants, Solar Thermal, Water Heating, both domestic and industrial, Solar Photovoltaic energy based rural home-lighting, lanterns, water pumps for irrigation and village level power plants, grid connected power from Wind Energy, Small Hydro, Bagesse-based Co-generation and Solar Photovoltaic Energy and electrical power from Urban and Industrial Wastes throughout the country including in the State of Assam and Rajasthan.

The achievements in the States of Assam and Rajasthan upto March, 1996 under these various Non-Conventional Energy Programmes are given in statement.